Newspaper Advertisements of U.P.S.C. given by D.A.V.P.

1676. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: The names of Newspapers to which advertisements of the Union Public Services Commission were given through DAVP during the period from 1st April, 1992 to 31st March, 1993, language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): During the period 1st April, 1992 to 31st March, 1993, UPSC advertisements were issued to 184 newspapers a list of which, language-wise, is given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLXVII, Annerure No. 21).

Allocation of time on Metro Channel

1677. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to sell time on Metro Channel on 'first come first serve' basis; and

(b) if so, what are the plans of Government to monitor the Standards of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTNG (SHRI K. P. SNGH DEO). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programmes telecast during the metro hour (8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.) introduced from 26th January, 1993 are not previewed but are required to conform to the AIR Broadcast Code, the advertisement code applicable to Doordarshan, the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1992, Copyright Act and Dordarshan's guidelines.

Merger of News Agencies PTI and UNI into one

1678. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge the two news agencies, the P.T.I. and the U.N.I. into one;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether the Hindi agencies BHASHA and UNIVARTA will be closed down; and

(c) whether permission given to the foreign news agency REUTER to operate independent of the P.T.I. since April this year that has caused a huge revenue loss to the P. T. I. is one major causes for proposed merger of the two Indian news agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The Government is not aware of any such proposal as PTI and UNI are private news agencies, independent of the Government.

Observation Norms laid down for Selection of AIR Correspondents Abroad

1679. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all norms laid down for selection of AIR correspondents for posting abroad have been observed in case of selection/apointment of correspondents at Singapore and Dubai;

(b) Under what circumstances, the norms like the one that the incumbent should have minimum five years of service period before retirement, has not been observed; and

(c) what are the reasons for selecting persons outside the panel when much more experienced and senior persons were named in the panel?